

What is claimed is:

1. A backlight comprising:
a source of diffuse light; and
5 a light transmissive film having a structured surface, said structured surface being on a side of said film facing said source of diffuse light such that said film directs light from said source of diffuse light into a plurality of primary intensity lobes in different directions.
- 10 2. The backlight of claim 1 wherein said light source includes a light guide.
3. The backlight of claim 2 wherein said light guide has the form of a slab.
4. The backlight of claim 1 wherein said light guide has a first input surface.
15 5. The backlight of claim 4 wherein said light source further includes a first cold cathode fluorescent tube adjacent said first input surface.
6. The backlight of claim 5 wherein said light guide further includes a second input
20 surface and said light source further includes a second cold cathode fluorescent tube adjacent said second input surface.
7. The backlight of claim 6 wherein said second input surface is adjacent said first input surface.
25 8. The backlight of claim 6 wherein said second input surface is parallel to said first input surface.
9. The backlight of claim 6 wherein said light guide further includes a third input surface

and said light source further includes a third cold cathode fluorescent tube adjacent said third input surface.

10. The backlight of claim 2 wherein said light guide has the form of a wedge.

11. The backlight of claim 2 wherein said light source further includes a light emitting diode.

12. The backlight of claim 1 wherein said light source includes an electroluminescent panel.

13. The backlight of claim 1 wherein said film directs light into two primary intensity lobes.

14. The backlight of claim 1 wherein said film directs light into four primary intensity lobes.

15. The backlight of claim 1 wherein said structured surface has triangular prisms thereon.

16. The backlight of claim 15 wherein said triangular prisms have the shape of isosceles triangles.

17. The backlight of claim 16 wherein said prisms are right isosceles prisms.

18. An electronic display comprising
a source of diffuse light;
a film having a structured surface, said structured surface being on a side of said film opposite of said source of diffuse light such that said film directs light from said source of diffuse light into a plurality of primary intensity lobes in different directions; and

a light valve.

19. The electronic display of claim 18 wherein said light valve is a liquid crystal display.